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FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
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RUCLAKA/CDR4THPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//SB//
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RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/DEFINTAGNCY WASH DC
RUFHVOA/VOA MUNICH GE
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EZ1:

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EZ2:

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TAKE 1 OF 7 -- BELYAYEV VIEWS ISLAMIC REVIVAL, IMPACT ON USSR
PM211502

((EDITORIAL REPORT)) MOSCOW LITERATURNAYA GAZETA IN RUSSIAN 13
MAY AND 20 MAY 1987 CARRIES A TWO-PART ARTICLE BY POLITICAL
OBSERVER IGOR BELYAYEV UNDER THE RUBRIC "FROM LETTER TO PROBLEM,"
HEADED "ISLAM AND POLITICS."

THE 4,000-WORD FIRST PART, CARRIED ON PAGE 13 OF THE 13 MAY
EDITION, OPENS WITH A LETTER FROM STUDENT A. MIKHAYLOV IN GORKIY
WHICH READS:

"THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR MATERIALIST WORLD
OUTLOOK AND ISLAM. DOES THIS MEAN, AS CERTAIN WESTERN POLITICIANS
BELIEVE, THAT MANY SOVIET MUSLIMS ARE SUBJECT TO THE INFLUENCE OF
THEIR CORELIGIONISTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WHO ARE WAGING A STRUGGLE
AGAINST SOCIALISM WHICH SHOWS NO SIGN OF DYING DOWN TO THIS DAY?"

BELYAYEV BEGINS BY GIVING A BRIEF CHARACTERIZATION OF ISLAM AS A
COMPARATIVELY MODERN RELIGION WITH MORE THAN 850 MILLION BELIEVERS
WORLDWIDE, ADDING IN A FOOTNOTE: "MUSLIMS LIVE IN THE USSR TOO --
IN AZERBAIJAN, KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, KIRGHIZIA, TURKMENIA, AND
TAJIKISTAN, AND ALSO IN THE TATAR AND BASHKIR ASSR'S, THE VOLGA
REGION, AND CERTAIN OTHER REGIONS WHERE ISLAM WAS TRADITIONALLY
WIDESPREAD." HE NOTES THE FLOURISHING OF VARIOUS BRANCHES OF
SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY IN EASTERN COUNTRIES SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF
ISLAM, THOUGH, HE ADDS, "NOT SOLELY AS A RESULT OF ISLAM," AND GOES
ON TO OUTLINE THE HISTORY OF THE UPSURGE IN INTEREST IN ISLAM SINCE
THE 1960'S, REFERRING IN PARTICULAR TO EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
AL-NASIR'S TOLERANCE OF ISLAM IN THE CONTEXT OF REVOLUTIONARY
TRANSFORMATIONS.

THE PROSPECT HE PROMISES US: 'AS SOON AS ISLAM, WHICH IS NOW HIDING BEHIND THE SCENES, BREAKS OUT ONTO THE BROAD HIGHWAY AND THE AGGRESSIVE FUNDAMENTALISTS REBEL, THE KREMLIN WILL HAVE A NEW POLAND, THIS TIME WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS.'

"I DO NOT THINK THAT THE CONVOCATION IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1986 OF A KIND OF INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM CONFERENCE WHICH FORMULATED THE TASK OF SEPARATING CENTRAL ASIA FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND CREATING A KIND OF INDEPENDENT ISLAMIC STATE (!) WAS A COINCIDENCE. EVIDENTLY THOSE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON WHO ARE PLAYING AT 'ISLAMIC GAMES' BELIEVE THE TIME HAS ALREADY COME FOR ACTION. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT ROUND OF THESE GAMES, THE FACT THAT THE PARTICIPANTS FACE A SPECIFIC POLITICAL TASK OF A SUBVERSIVE NATURE IS WORTHY OF ATTENTION. THE NATURE OF THIS TASK IS TO COMPLICATE THE SITUATION IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS. SO THERE YOU HAVE IT!

"IN YET ANOTHER RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, 'SHI'ISM AND SOCIAL PROTEST,' UNDER THE EDITORSHIP OF KH. KOL AND N. KIDDI ((NAMES AS TRANSLITERATED -- FBIS)), THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE SOVIET SHI'ITE MUSLIMS. IN PARTICULAR, THE ISMAILIS LIVING IN THE PAMIR (MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE), AND ALSO THE RELATIVELY STRONG INFLUENCE OF THE IDEAS OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION .

<> "THE SAME DIETL, AFTER HIS VISIT TO <><>AFGHANISTAN<><>, DECLARED: 'THERE ARE UNDERGROUND FORCES THERE.'

"WHERE IS 'THERE'? DIETL EXPLAINS:

"'ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE (SOVIET UNION'S) SOUTHERN BORDER... I HEARD FROM MEMBERS OF SEVERAL GROUPS OF DUSHMANS (OR, AS DIETL CALLS THEM, "MUJAHIDIN") THAT LINKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS ON THE SOVIET SIDE. THEY ALSO TOLD ME THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ATTACKS ON IMPORTANT TARGETS. OF COURSE, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM MOSCOW. ONE OF THEIR LEADERS (THE DUSHMANS) TOLD ME: "WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE WAR INTO THE LAND OF THE SHURAVI (THE SOVIET UNION)!"'

"RUBBISH? NO, UNFORTUNATELY! LET ME REMIND YOU OF THE
<> GENERALLY KNOWN FACTS. ON 8 MARCH OF THIS YEAR THE <><>AFGHAN<><> DUSHMANS SHELLED THE BORDER SETTLEMENT OF PYANDZH, AS THE CENTRAL PRESS REPORTED. ON THE NIGHT OF 8-9 APRIL, EAST OF THE SETTLEMENT OF MOSKOVSKIY, THE DUSHMANS ATTACKED OUR BORDER GUARDS. THERE WERE CASUALTIES. THE INSPIRER OF THIS RAID, WHICH WAS CLEARLY INTENDED FOR SHOW, WAS MIR MUHAMMAD, A RELATIVE OF BASHIR, RINGLEADER OF THE
<> <><>AFGHAN<><> GANGS OF THE 'ISLAMIC PARTY' WHICH OPERATE IN TAKHAR PROVINCE. IT IS, OF COURSE, LAUGHABLE TO THINK THAT A RAID BY THOSE WHO LAY CLAIM TO THE ROLE OF THE 'NEW BASMAKS' WILL HARM THE SOVIET UNION. BUT IF WHAT HAPPENED NEAR THE SETTLEMENT OF MOSKOVSKIY IS REGARDED AS A WARNING THAT THE WAR AGAINST THE SHURAVIS (SOVIETS) HAS BEEN UNLEASHED AND HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN INTO THEIR TERRITORY, THEN WHAT HAPPENED APPEARS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT. CLEARLY THERE IS NO HOLDING THE ORGANIZERS OF THE 'ISLAMIC GAMES' IN WASHINGTON. THEY ARE EVIDENTLY IN A HURRY...

(MORE) 13-20 MAY [REDACTED]

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